

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0133-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Amend COC75001

PROJECT NAME: NWP Extra Workspace for Recoats and CPS maintenance

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 1 N., R. 97 W.,  
sec. 4, lot 3.

T. 1 S., R. 97 W.,  
sec. 12, lot 16.

T. 2 N., R. 99 W.,  
sec. 4, lots 5 and 6;  
sec. 6, lot 21.

T. 2 N., R. 100 W.,  
sec. 3, lot 37.

T. 2 S., R. 101 W.,  
sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

T. 1 S., R. 102 W.,  
sec. 1, lot 28.

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline GP

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

**Background/Introduction:** Northwest Pipeline (NWP) is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation to operate and maintain a cathodic protection system (CPS) along its entire pipeline system. Cathodic protection provides a low voltage current across the pipeline and, along with specialized pipeline coatings, helps to prevent corrosion of the pipeline. All eight sites are on or along the existing 10-inch Piceance Creek Lateral (ROW COC011409), which has a width of 50 feet, and the existing 26-inch Ignacio-Sumas Pipeline (ROW COC011243), which has a width of 50 feet.

**Proposed Action:** Northwest Pipeline GP (hereafter NWP) has applied for a temporary use permit (TUP) for additional workspace for pipeline reconditioning and cathodic protection (CP) maintenance.

NWP has identified several lengths of the Piceance Creek Lateral and Ignacio-Sumas pipelines that require pipeline reconditioning and CP maintenance. There are three sections that require exposing the pipeline and reconditioning it, and five lengths that require additional cathodic protection (see Exhibit A). The three reconditioning sites will require working space outside of the existing pipeline ROW. The five sites requiring additional CP are all existing CP sites where failing groundbeds will be replaced. A new deepwell will be drilled next to the existing deepwell at the five CP sites. No new access is required to any of the eight project sites.

NWP requests an amendment to TUP COC75001 to repair the three lengths of pipe and replace five existing CP deepwells. The TUP would be amended for an additional 2.65 acres, more or less.

- 1) The locations of the reconditioning sites are at approximate Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline mileposts: 5.6, 14.6, and 28.67. The existing pipeline right-of-way is 50 feet wide. Due to the topography of the existing pipeline route, NWP has requested an additional 20 ft wide temporary extra workspace on each side of the existing ROW for the reconditioning work. The TUP would be for two years to allow construction and reclamation before reverting back to the original ROW. Aerial photo maps were provided and are included in the file.
- 2) The CP sites that are being replaced are: CPS 634, 601, 1036, 1437, and 678. The existing CP sites rights-of-way are approximately 20 feet wide. The temporary workspace would be 10 feet on either side of the existing ROW and 100 ft by 100 ft around the existing CP groundbed.

Project segment	Case file	Location	TUP	Acres
Milepost 5.6	COC011409	39.972782, -108.221298	40'x225'	0.21
Milepost 14.6		40.089069, -108.284073	40'x300'	0.28
Milepost 28.67		40.176487, -108.500557	40'x184'	0.17
CPS 634	COC011243	39.847187, -108.733534	20'x255' and 100'x100'	0.35
CPS 601	COC089546	39.993457, -108.783461	20'x244' and 100'x100'	0.34
CPS 1036	COC12947	40.177305, -108.507575	20'x225' and 100'x100'	0.33
CPS1437	COC011409	40.172798, -108.553797	20'x237' and 100'x100'	0.34
CPS 678	COC0123135	40.164992, -108.605545	20'x405' and 100'x100'	0.42

Construction is proposed to begin in October 2011. Construction equipment and vehicles would include a drilling rig, rubber tire hoe, welding truck, and NWP personnel pick-up trucks. The location of the existing, permanent pipeline right-of-way, repairs, and temporary work areas would be flagged prior to construction. NWP would comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and local laws and regulations as they relate to public health and safety, environmental protection, construction operation, and maintenance. No toxic substances would be stored or used on the right-of-way. NWP would have an inspector on site during construction and

reclamation to insure federal and state regulations and requirements are adhered to. Any accidents to persons or property on federal lands would be reported immediately to the authorized officer.

The disturbed areas would be final graded, as close as possible, to the original contours. The area would be reseeded upon completion. Any above-ground appurtenances would be painted to blend with the surrounding area. Vehicles would use existing highways, county road, dirt roads, and the pipeline ROW.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:** The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

**Name of Plan:** White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

**Date Approved:** July 1, 1997

**Decision Number/Page:** Page 2-49

**Decision Language:** “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.”

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E19: “*Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.*”

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental		X

<b>Extraordinary Circumstance</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 6/07/2011. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Date</b>
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	10/5/2011
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/8/2011
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	7/12/2011

#### REMARKS:

*Cultural Resources:* The proposed CPS locations, recoat locations, and temporary extra workspace areas have been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Peterson

2011, compliance dated 8/31/2011) with three sites and the Canyon Pintado National Historic District (CPNHD) located during the surveys. Two sites, 5RB.638 (located within CPNHD 5RB.984) and 5RB.3692, have been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places either as a contributing site for the CPNHD or independently. One site, 5RB.6748, has been determined ineligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

If mitigation measures negotiated with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office are strictly adhered to, there would be no adverse effects to any known cultural resources. However, there is the potential to impact previously unknown subsurface resources during excavations, which could involve potentially NRHP eligible sites, especially if located within the CPNHD.

Impacts to cultural resources, should any occur, as a result of the project could result in a long term, irreversible, and irretrievable loss of scientific data for the regional archaeological database.

*Paleontological Resources:* CPS units 601 and 634 are in CPNHD and appear to be completely within an area generally mapped as the Quaternary Alluvium (Tweto 1979), which is not known to produce fossiliferous material (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). It is highly unlikely there would be any new impacts to the regional paleontological database from work at these two CPS locations.

CPS 678 is located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation which means it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Any excavation into the underlying sedimentary rock formation has the potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil resources would result in some irreversible and irretrievable cumulative loss of data from the regional paleontological database.

CPS 1437 is located in an area generally mapped as an area where the Douglas Creek member of the Green River formation and the Wasatch come together and are conformably exposed (Tweto 1979). CPS 1036 is located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979). The BLM WRFO has classified the Wasatch as a PFYC 5 formation and the Douglas Creek member of the Green River as a PFYC 4 formation meaning that both formations are known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossils (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to install the anode bed, there is a potential to impact noteworthy fossil resources. The nature of the excavations could determine the extent of the impacts to fossils. If the anode bed is installed with an auger drill, the impacts would be somewhat reduced compared to a horizontal anode bed. However, any impacts would result in an irreversible, irretrievable, and cumulative loss of scientific data in the regional paleontological database.

Recoat location MP 28.67 is located in an area generally mapped as the Douglas Creek member of the Green River Formation, which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 4 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Recoat location MP 14.6 is located in an area generally mapped s the Parachute

Creek Member of the Green River formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Recoat location MP 5.6 is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to safely expose the pipeline for recoating, there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any resultant impacts to the fossil resources would result in an irreversible, irretrievable, and cumulative loss of data for the regional paleontological database.

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No Native American religious concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

*Special Status Wildlife Species:* There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

*Special Status Plant Species:* There are no special status plant species concerns.

#### REFERENCES CITED:

- Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny  
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Peterson, Marcia  
2011 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for Northwest Pipeline's vernal District CPS and Recoat Locations, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Cardno Entrix, Salt Lake City, Utah. (11-174-03:
- Tweto, Ogden  
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION: All applicable terms and conditions of temporary use permit COC75001 and right-of-way grants COC011243, COC011409, COC089546, COC12947, and COC0123135 shall remain in full force and effect.

1. All excavations for recoat or other work in Canyon Pintado National Historic District (CPNHD) shall be monitored by an approved archaeological monitor.

2. **CPS location 634:** This CPS unit is located in CPNHD closely adjacent to site 5RB.638; therefore, an approved archaeological monitor shall be required at this unit during all work, and a temporary fence shall be erected to clearly mark off and protect site 5RB.638. All fencing must be completely removed upon completion of all construction work.

3. **CPS location 601:** This CPS unit is located in CPNHD; therefore, all work shall be monitored by an approved archaeologist.

4. **Recoat section MP 28.67:** This recoat section is located in relatively close proximity to site 5RB.3692, which is National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible; therefore, the site shall be fenced with a temporary fence and all work shall be monitored by an approved archaeological monitor. All fencing must be completely removed upon completion of all construction work.

5. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

6. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), NWP must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

8. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25 lbs./day, up to 250 lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

9. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of its agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work

may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the holder will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either: (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

10. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

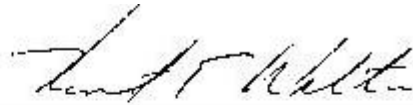
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E19. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

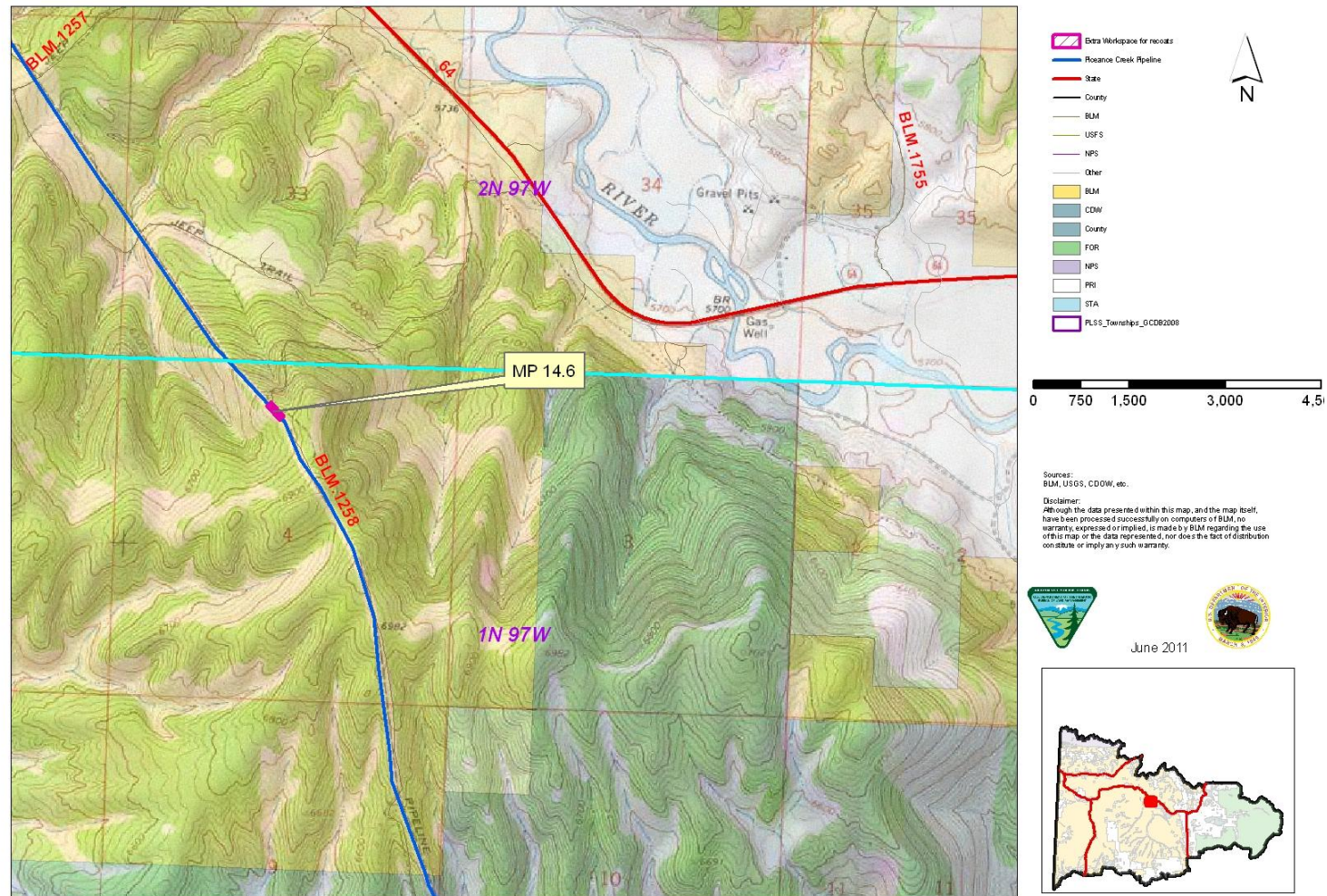
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ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Maps of Proposed Action



# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

## EXHIBIT A





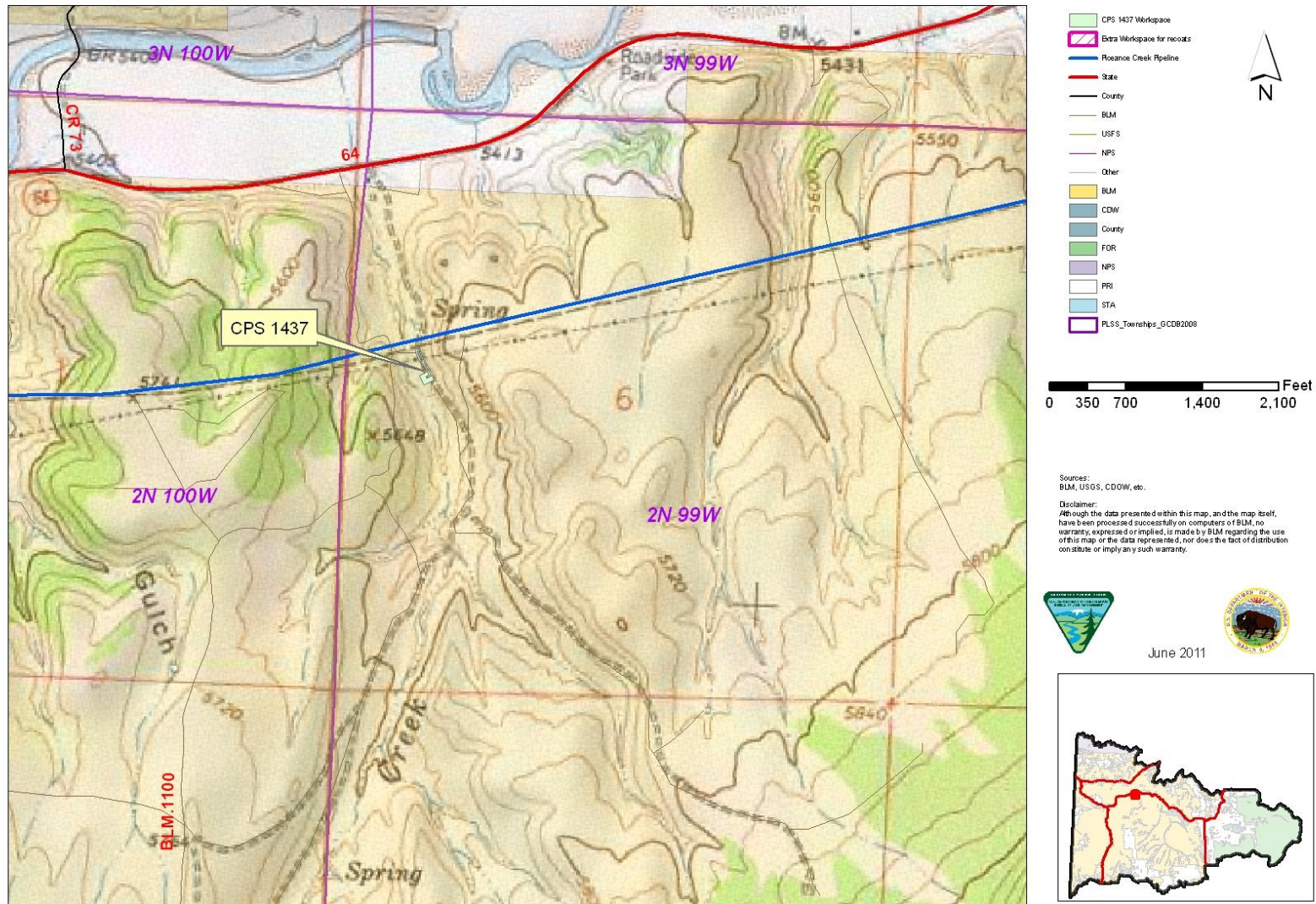
## EXHIBIT A





# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

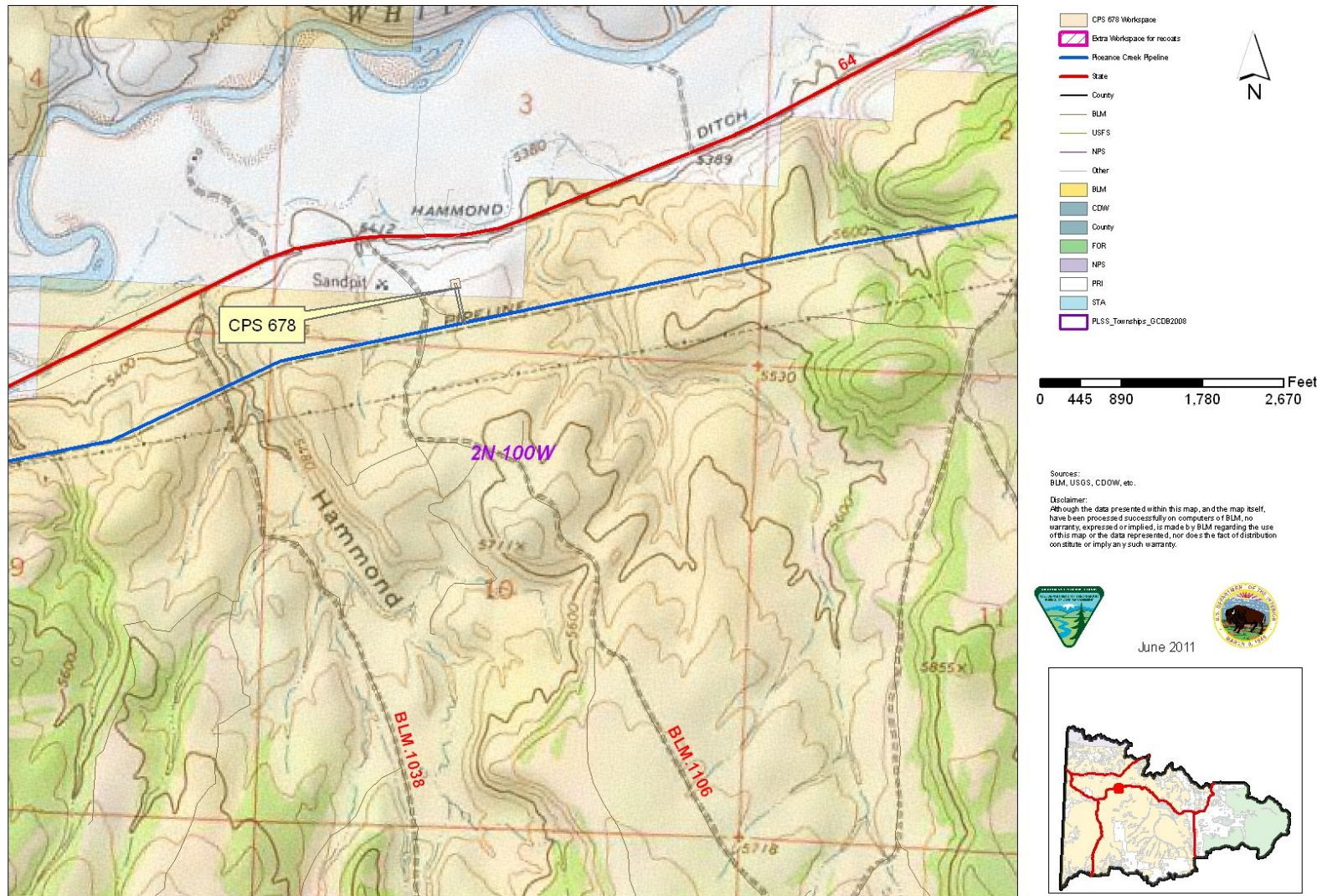
## EXHIBIT A





# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

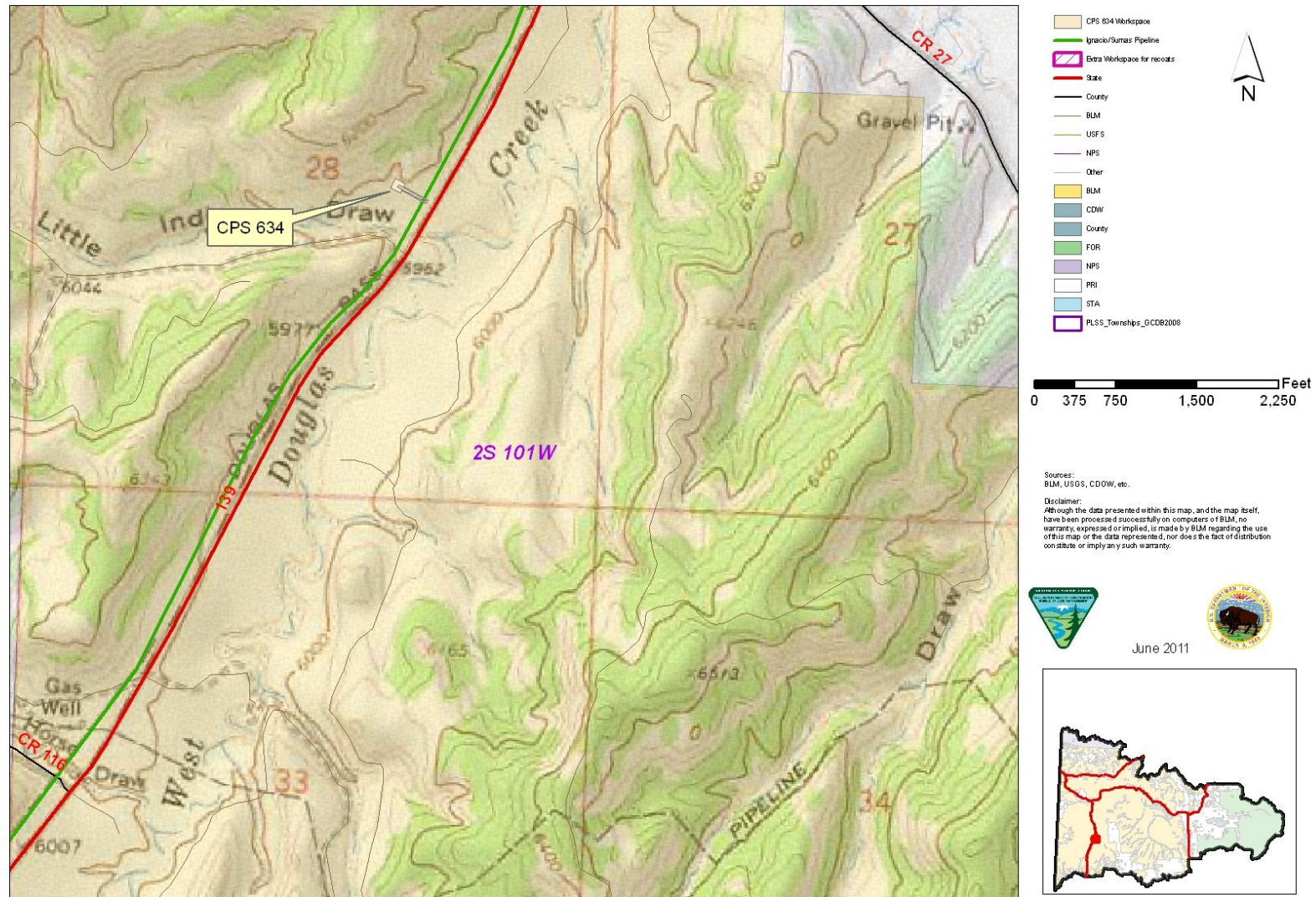
## EXHIBIT A





# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

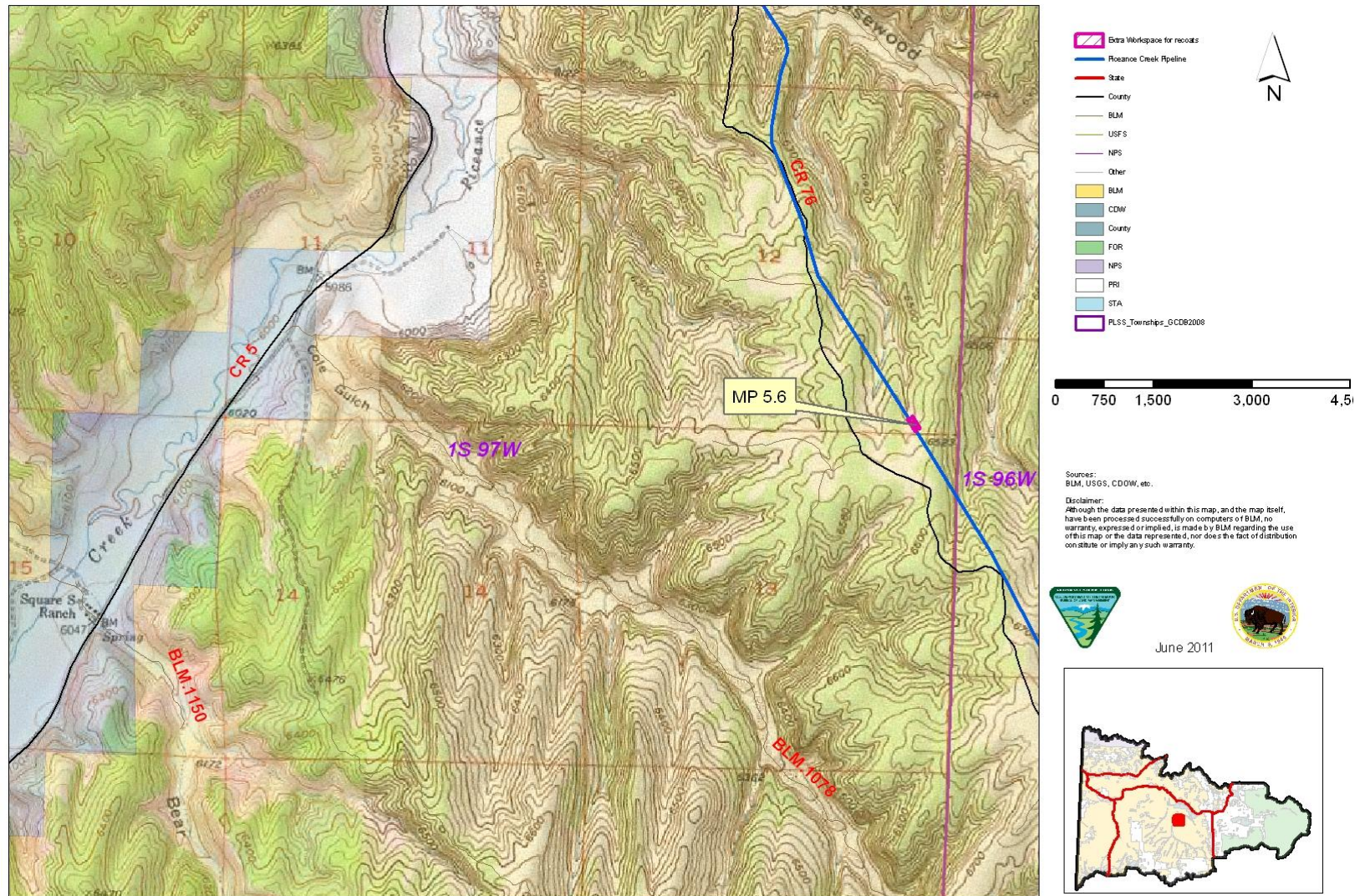
## EXHIBIT A





# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

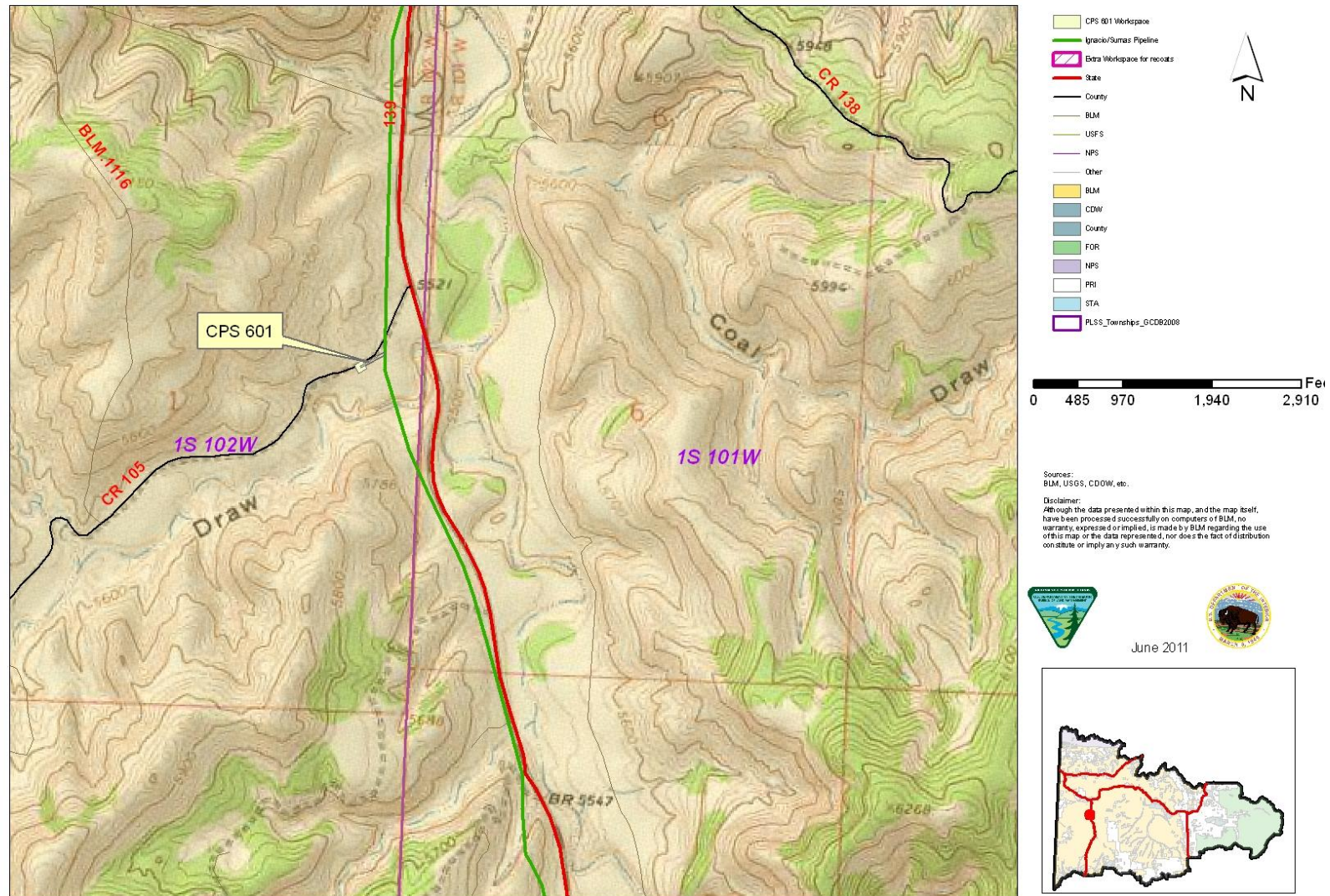
## EXHIBIT A





# NWP Recoat and CPS Maintenance

## EXHIBIT A



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641**

## **DECISION RECORD**

**PROJECT NAME:** NWP Extra Workspace for Recoats and CPS maintenance

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0133-CX

### **DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0133-CX, authorizing the construction, operation, and maintenance of temporary work areas necessary for pipeline reconditioning and maintenance of cathodic protection stations.

### **Mitigation Measures**

1. All applicable terms and conditions of temporary use permit COC75001 and right-of-way grants COC011243, COC011409, COC089546, COC12947, and COC0123135 shall remain in full force and effect.
2. All excavations for recoat or other work in Canyon Pintado National Historic District (CPNHD) shall be monitored by an approved archaeological monitor.
3. **CPS location 634:** This CPS unit is located in CPNHD closely adjacent to site 5RB.638; therefore, an approved archaeological monitor shall be required at this unit during all work, and a temporary fence shall be erected to clearly mark off and protect site 5RB.638. All fencing must be completely removed upon completion of all construction work.
4. **CPS location 601:** This CPS unit is located in CPNHD; therefore, all work shall be monitored by an approved archaeologist.
5. **Recoat section MP 28.67:** This recoat section is located in relatively close proximity to site 5RB.3692, which is National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible; therefore, the site shall be fenced with a temporary fence and all work shall be monitored by an approved archaeological monitor. All fencing must be completely removed upon completion of all construction work.
6. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
7. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this



authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

8. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), NWP must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

9. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25 lbs./day, up to 250 lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

10. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of its agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the holder will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either: (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

11. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on 6/8/2011 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

### **RATIONALE**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E19. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**



Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:**

10/12/11